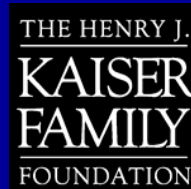


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Presentation



The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

# **The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign**

December 2006

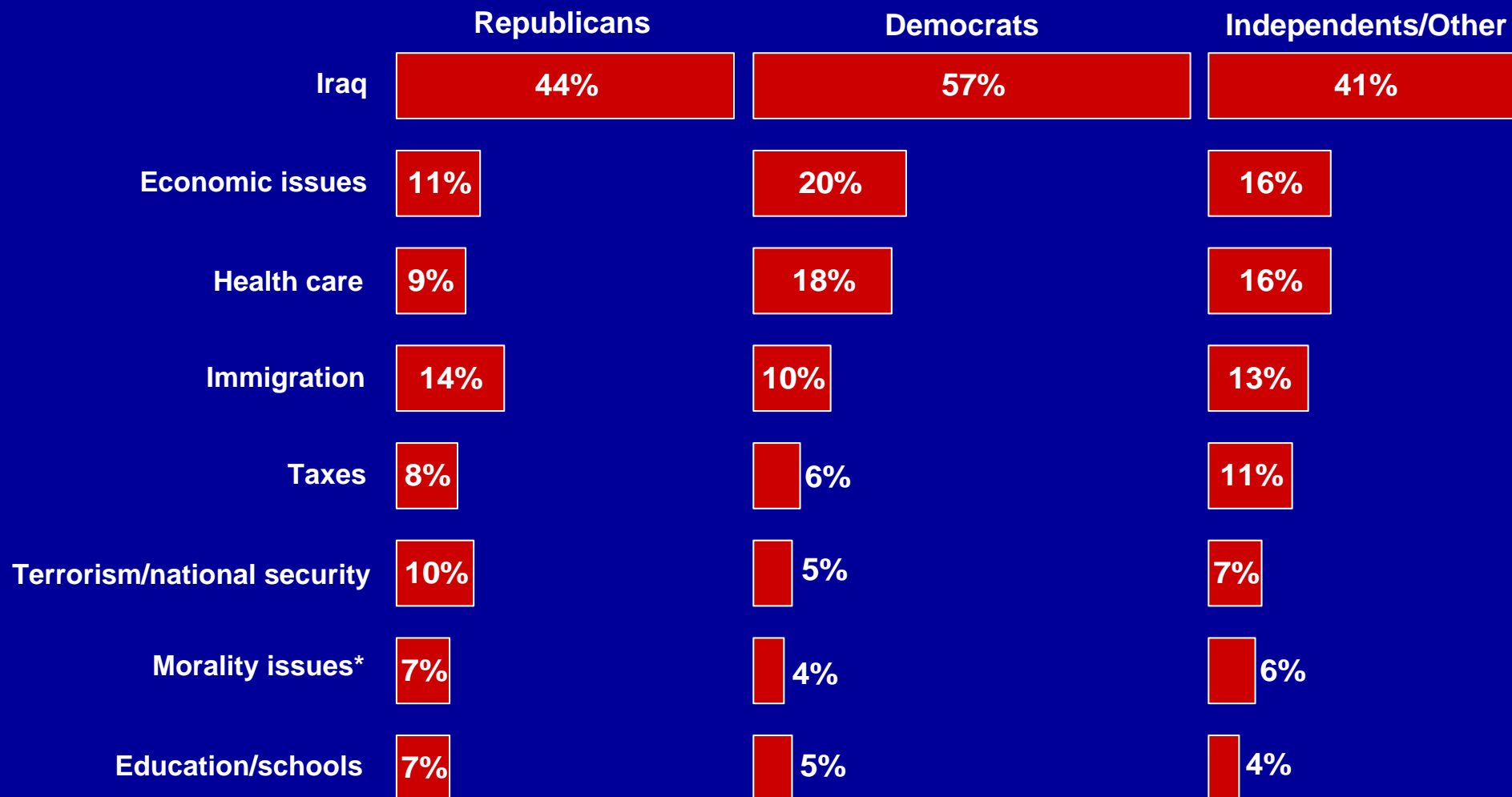
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# **Agenda for the New Congress**

Chart 1

# Most Important Issues to Address – Open-Ended

Which two issues would you most like the president and Congress to act on next year?



\*Morality issues included references to abortion, same sex marriage, stem cells, and other mentions of moral issues.

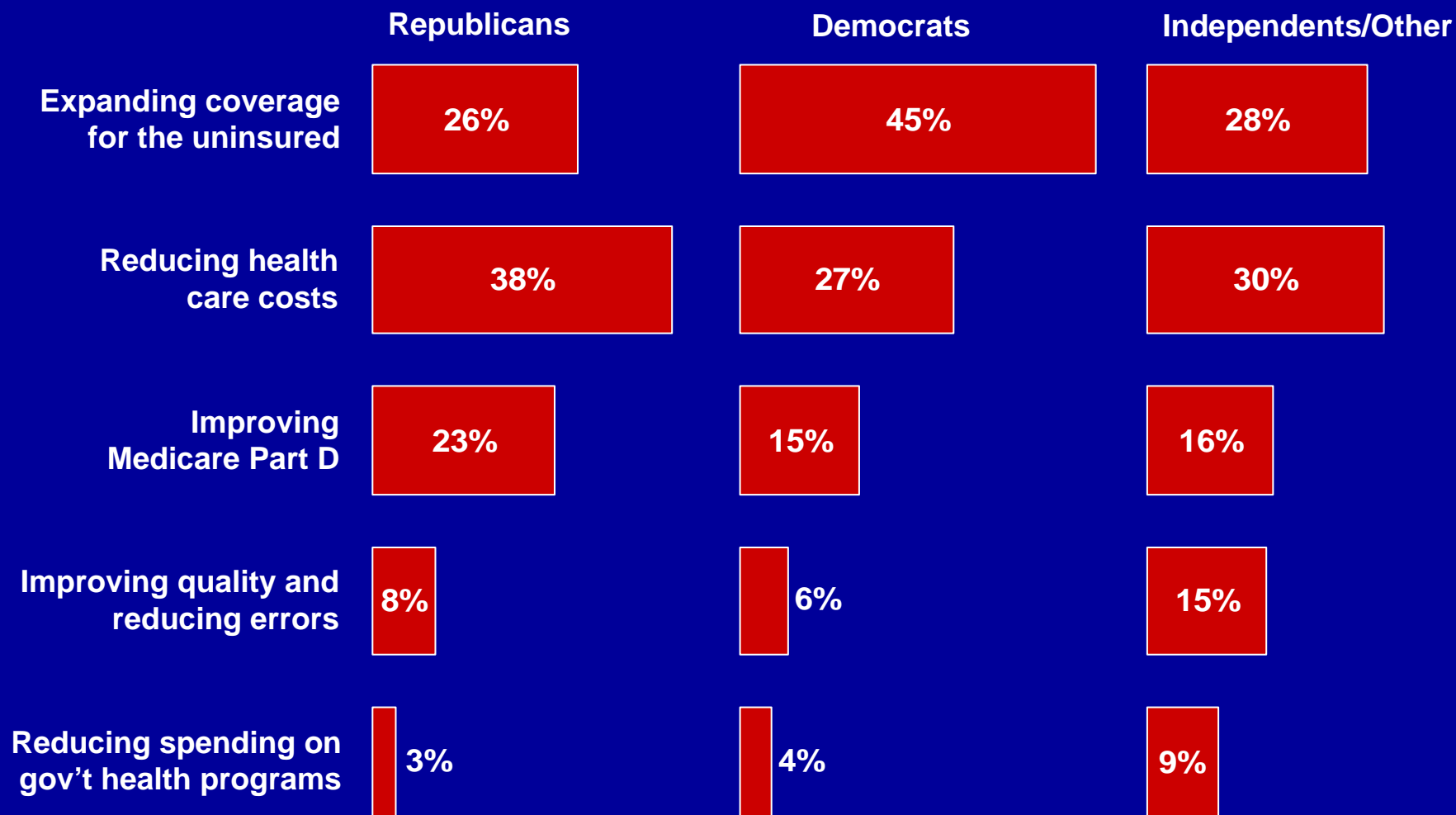
Note: Asked of half sample. Responses that received fewer mentions are not shown.

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 2

# Health Care Agenda for Congress and President

If you had to pick ONE of the following health care issues for the president and Congress to work on next year, which would it be?



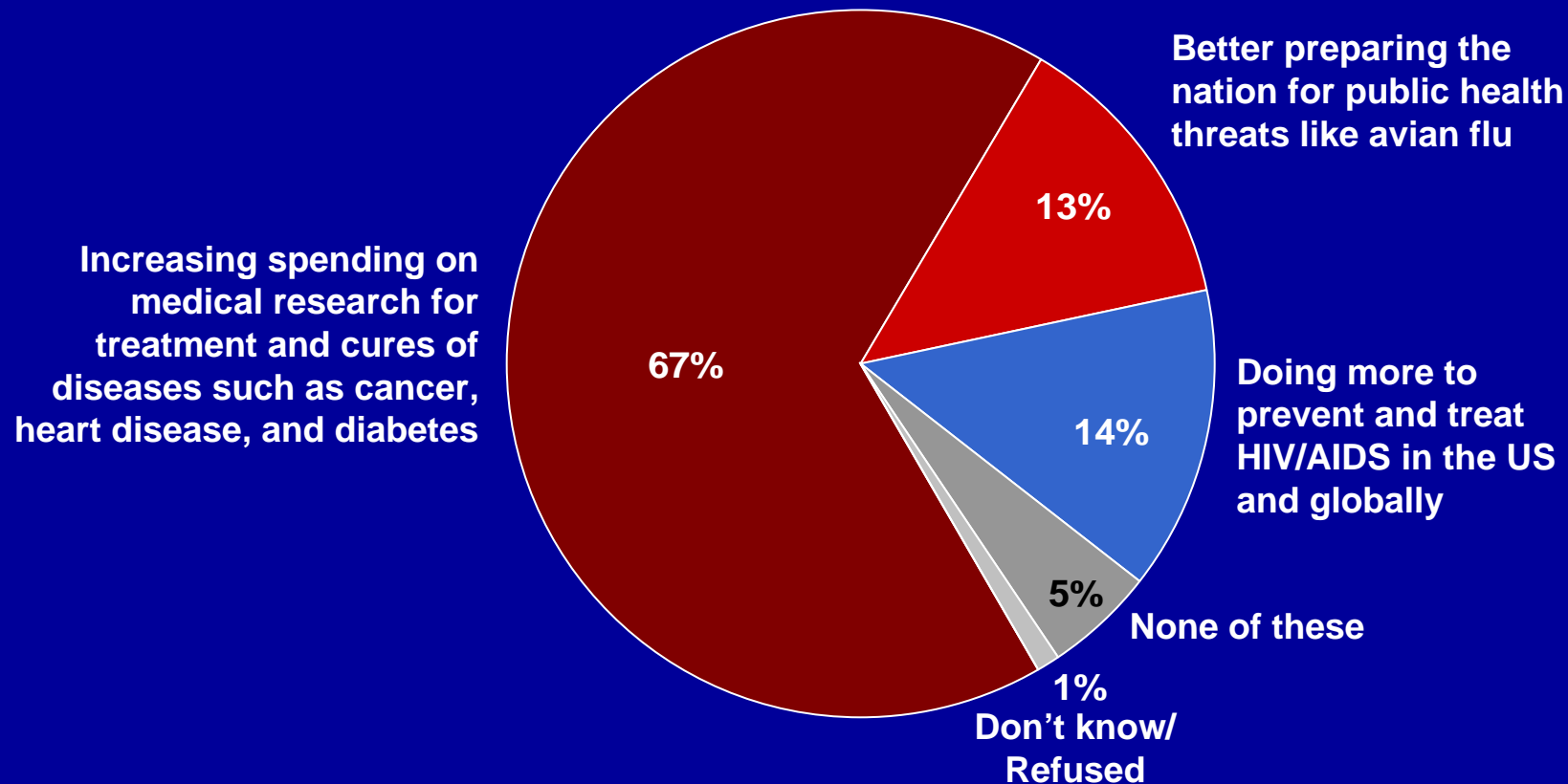
Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/refused" and "None of these" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 3

# Public Health Agenda for Congress and President

If you had to pick ONE of the following public health issues for the president and Congress to work on next year, which would it be?



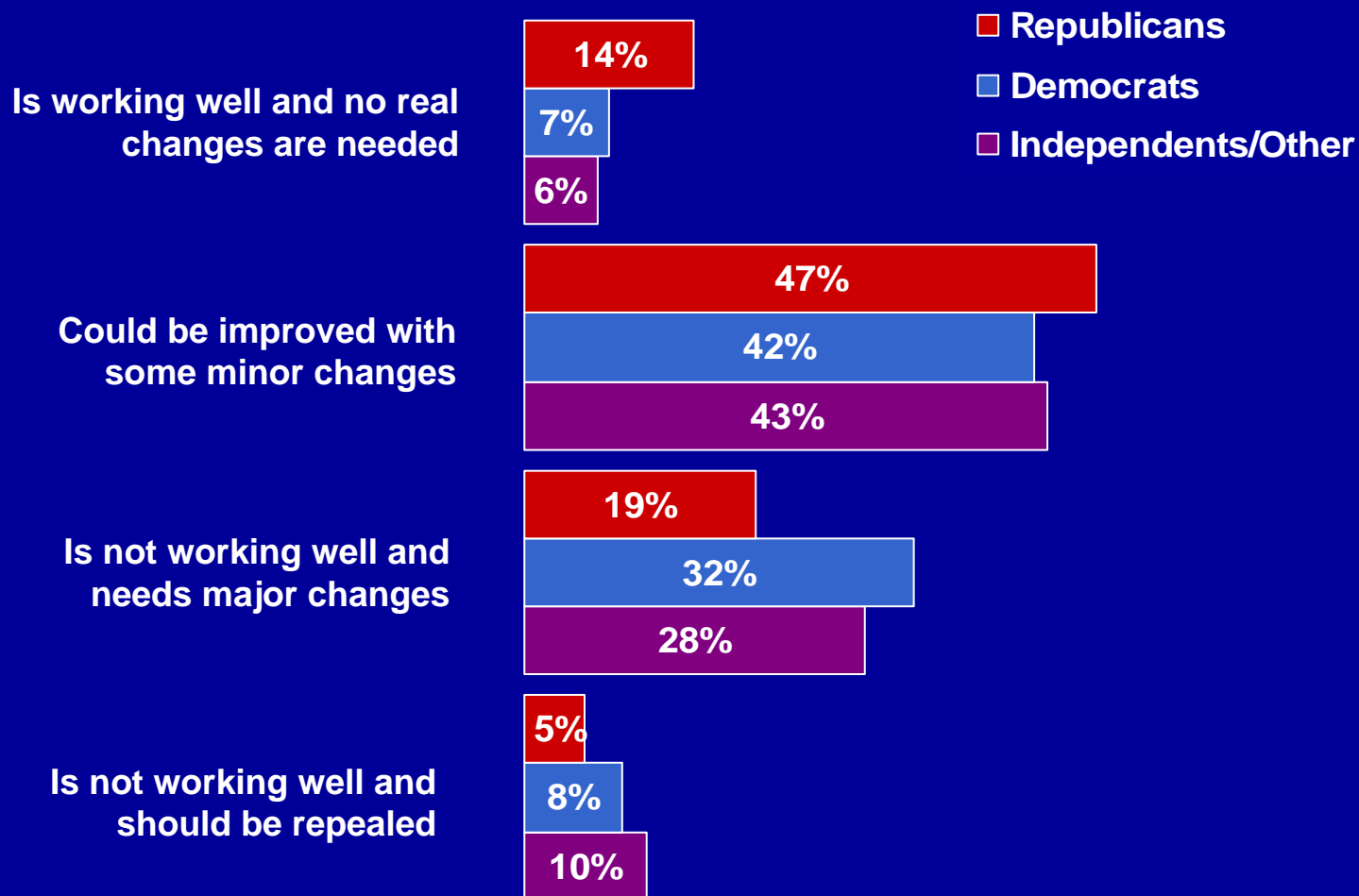
# **Attitudes Towards Current Agenda Items:**

- Medicare Part D**
- Government negotiation with drug companies**
- Drug reimportation**
- Stem cells**
- SCHIP reauthorization**

Chart 4

# Message to Congress About Medicare Part D

Overall, what message would you send to policymakers in Washington regarding the new Medicare drug benefit?



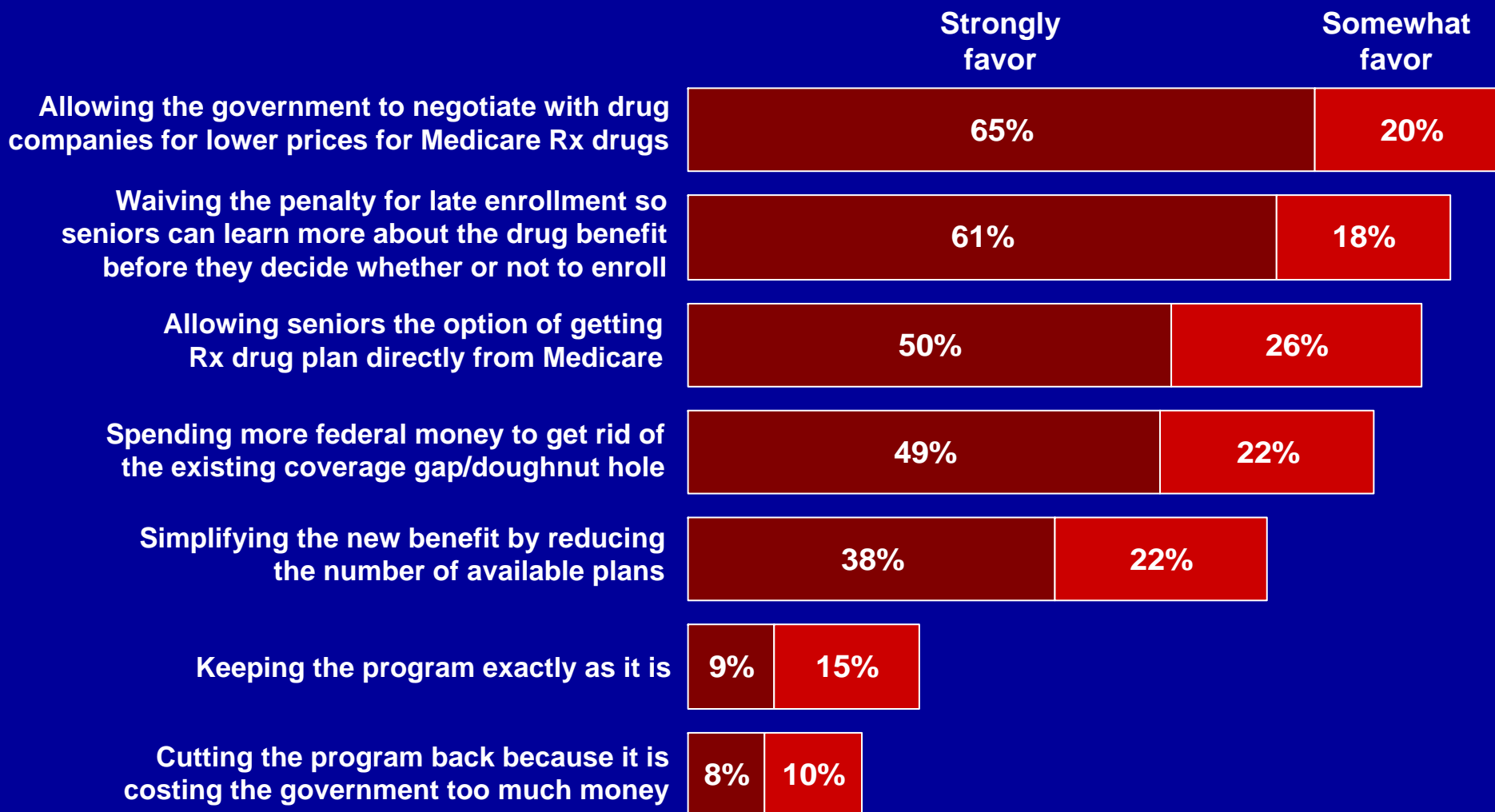
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 5

# Proposals to Change Medicare Part D

Percent who favor each of the following:



Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 6

# Proposals to Change Medicare Part D

Percent who “strongly” or “somewhat” favor each of the following:

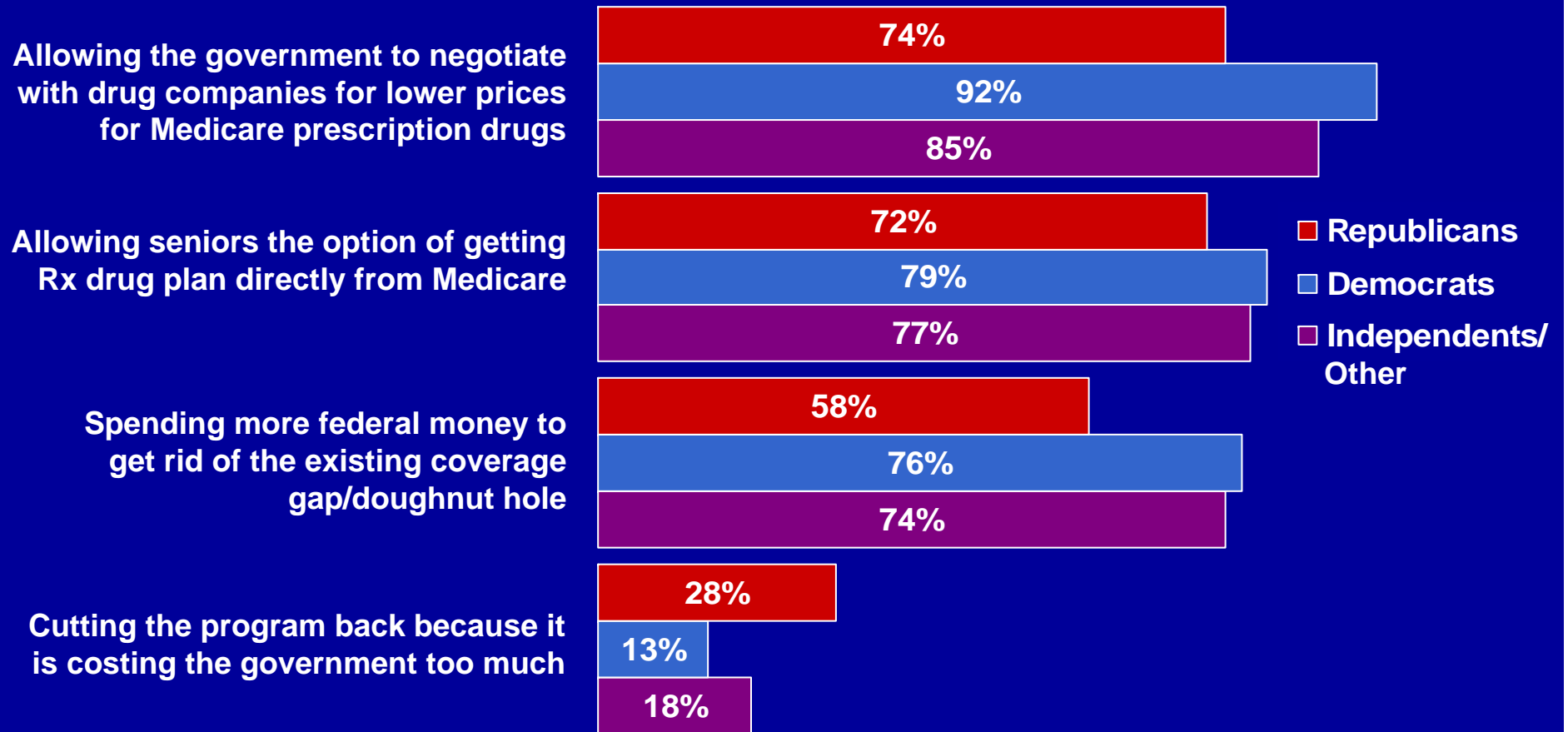
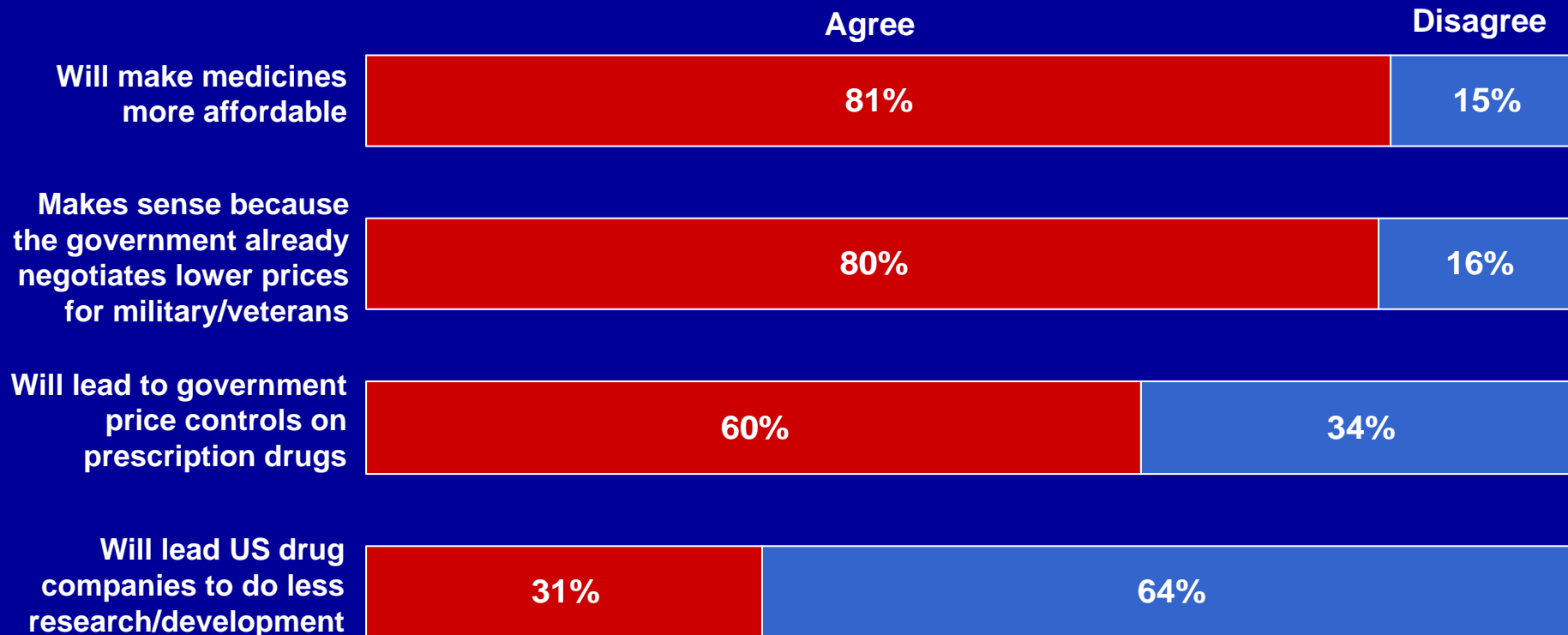


Chart 7

# Opinions on Drug Price Negotiation

The following is a list of things some people have said about allowing the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare. Please tell me if you agree or disagree.



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 8

# Support for Buying Prescription Drugs from Canada

Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada if they think they can get a lower price?

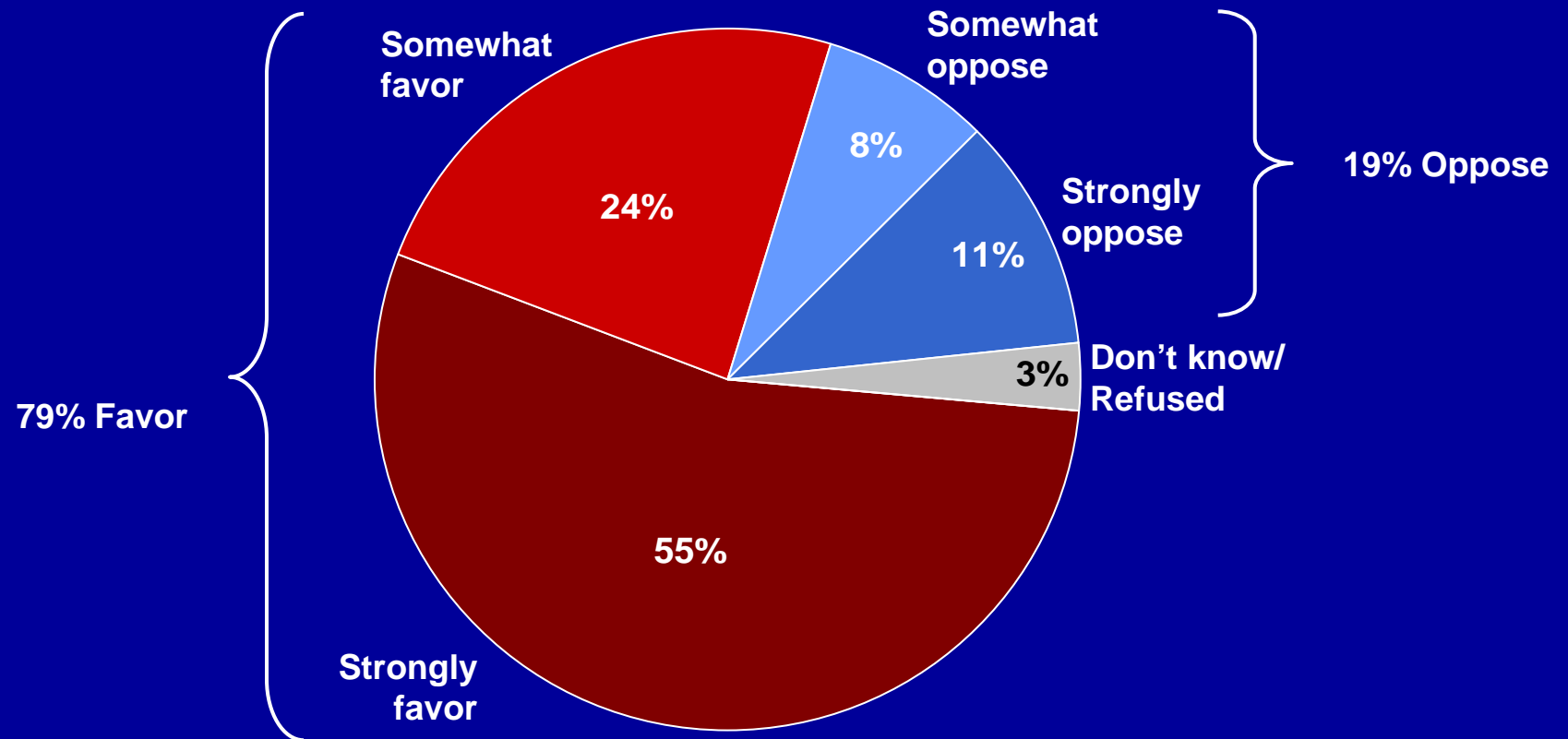
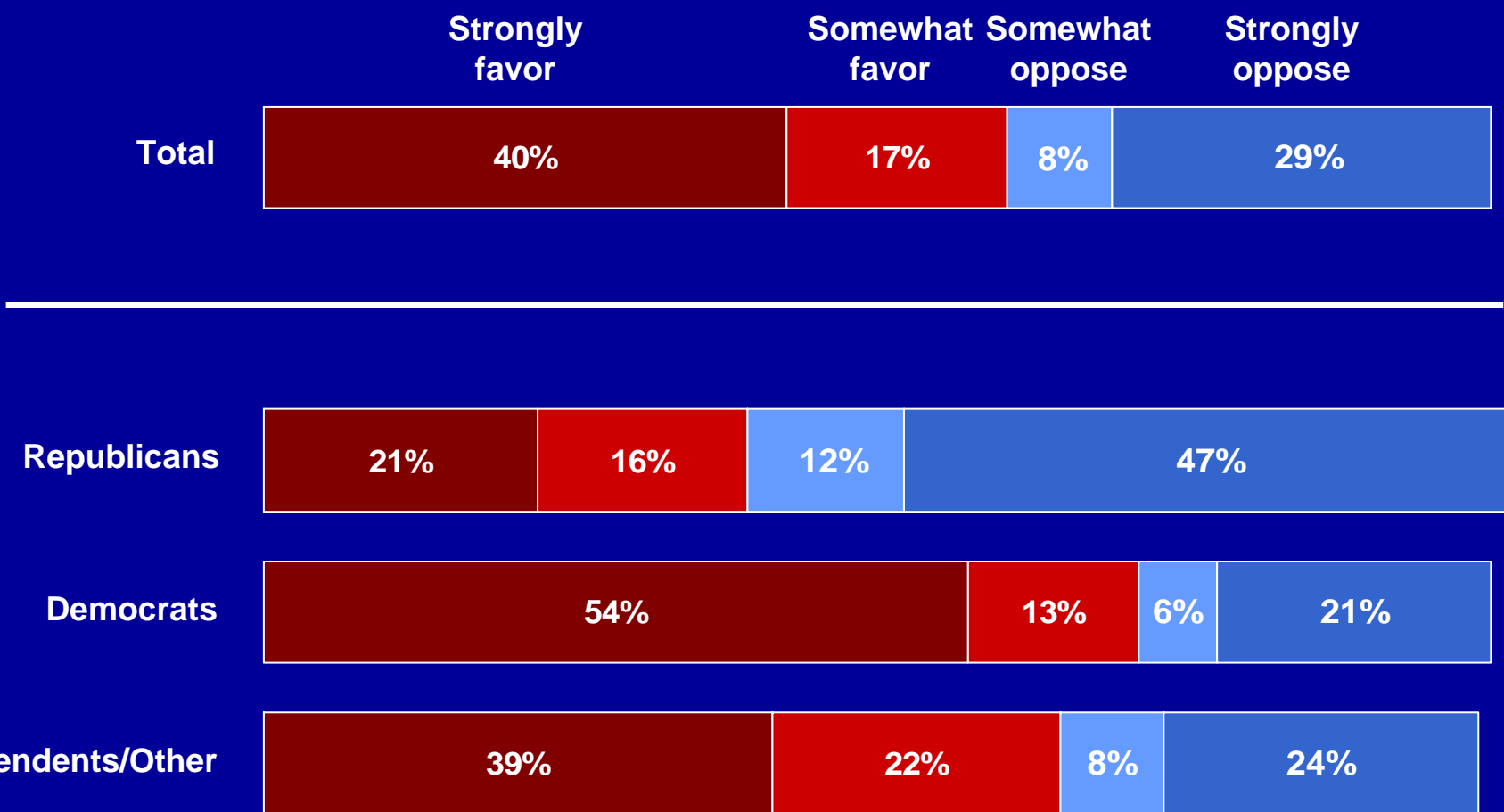


Chart 9

# Support for Stem Cell Research Funding

President Bush has banned federal funding for medical research using stem cells from human embryos, except from a small number of existing stem cell lines. Do you favor or oppose the new Congress expanding stem cell research by allowing federal funding for research that uses newly-created stem cells obtained from human embryos?



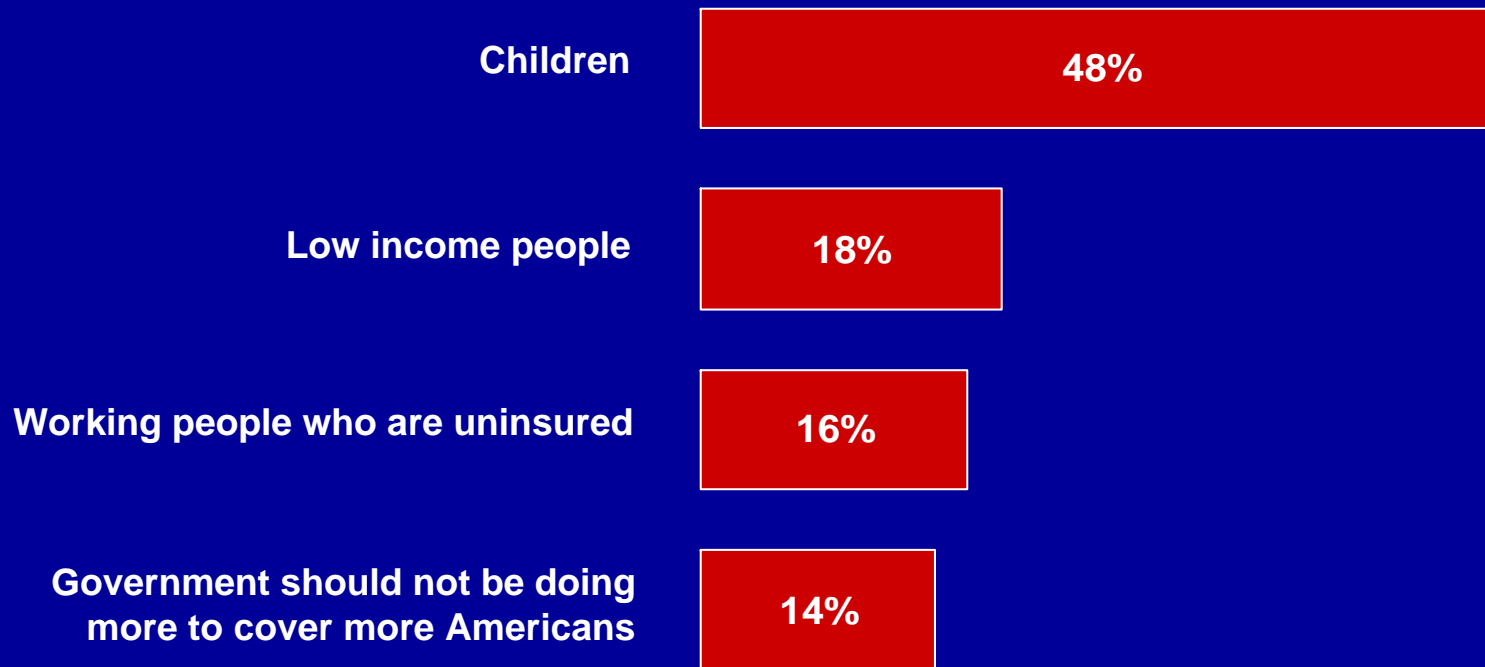
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 10

# Children's Health Insurance

If Congress doesn't think we can afford to guarantee health insurance for everyone, which one of the following groups do you think we should try to provide with health insurance first?



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

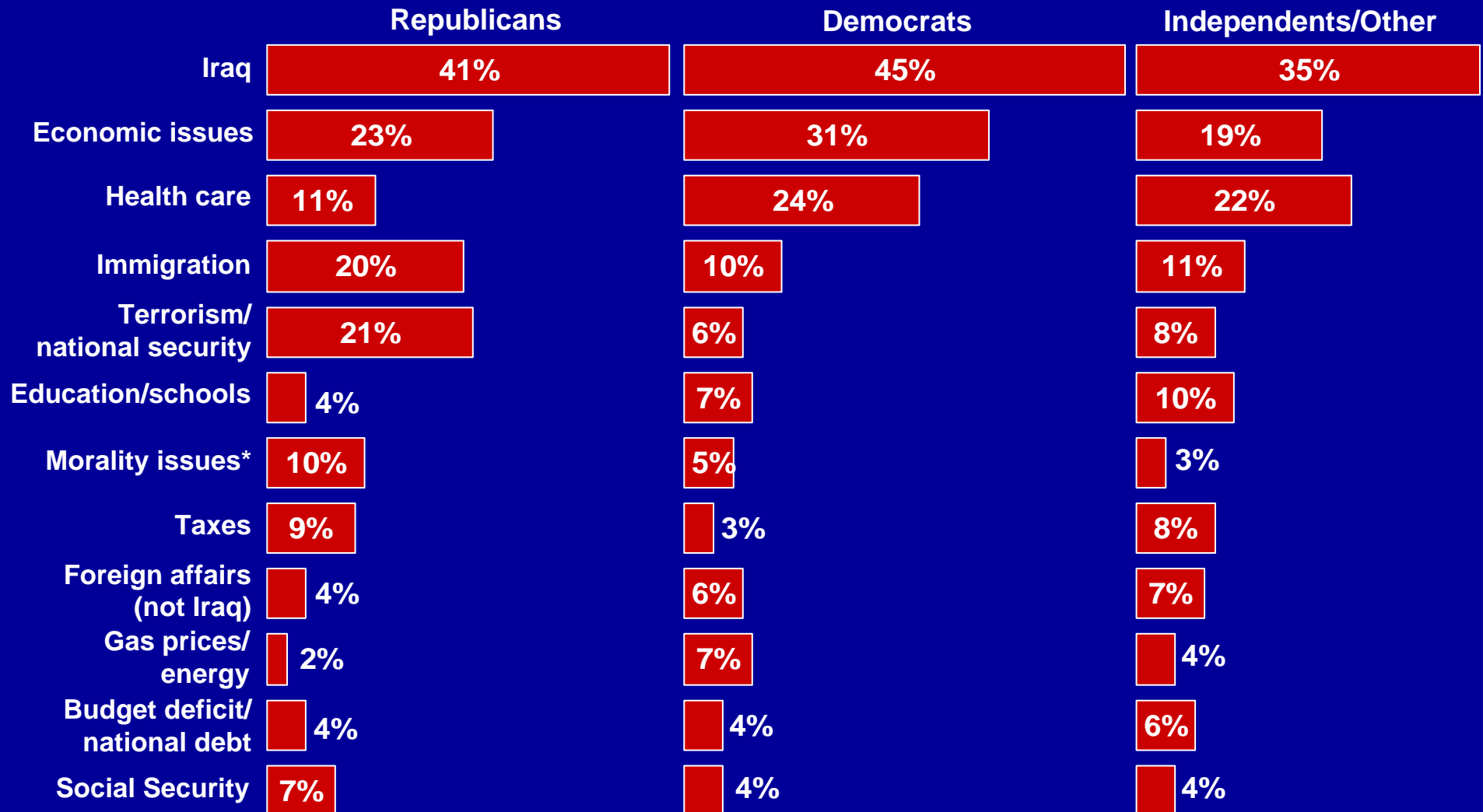
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

**A Look Ahead:  
The 2008 Presidential Campaign**

Chart 11

# Issues for Candidates to Discuss – Open-Ended

What two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about?



\*Morality issues included references to abortion, same sex marriage, stem cells, and other mentions of moral issues.

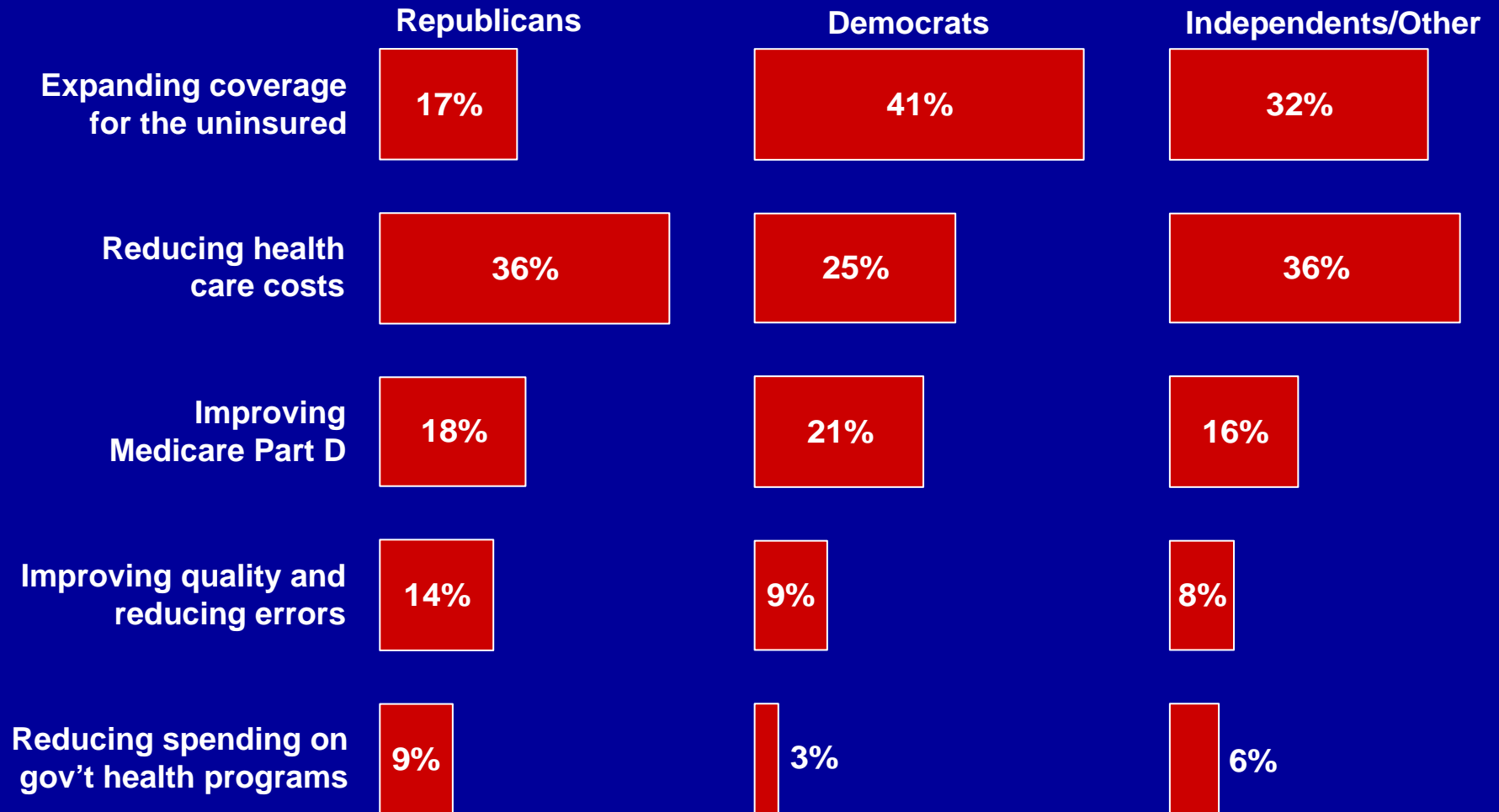
Note: Asked of half sample. Responses that received fewer mentions are not shown.

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 12

# Health Care Agenda for Presidential Candidates

Which ONE of the following health care issues would you most like to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about over the next two years and focus on in any health reform plan they may develop?



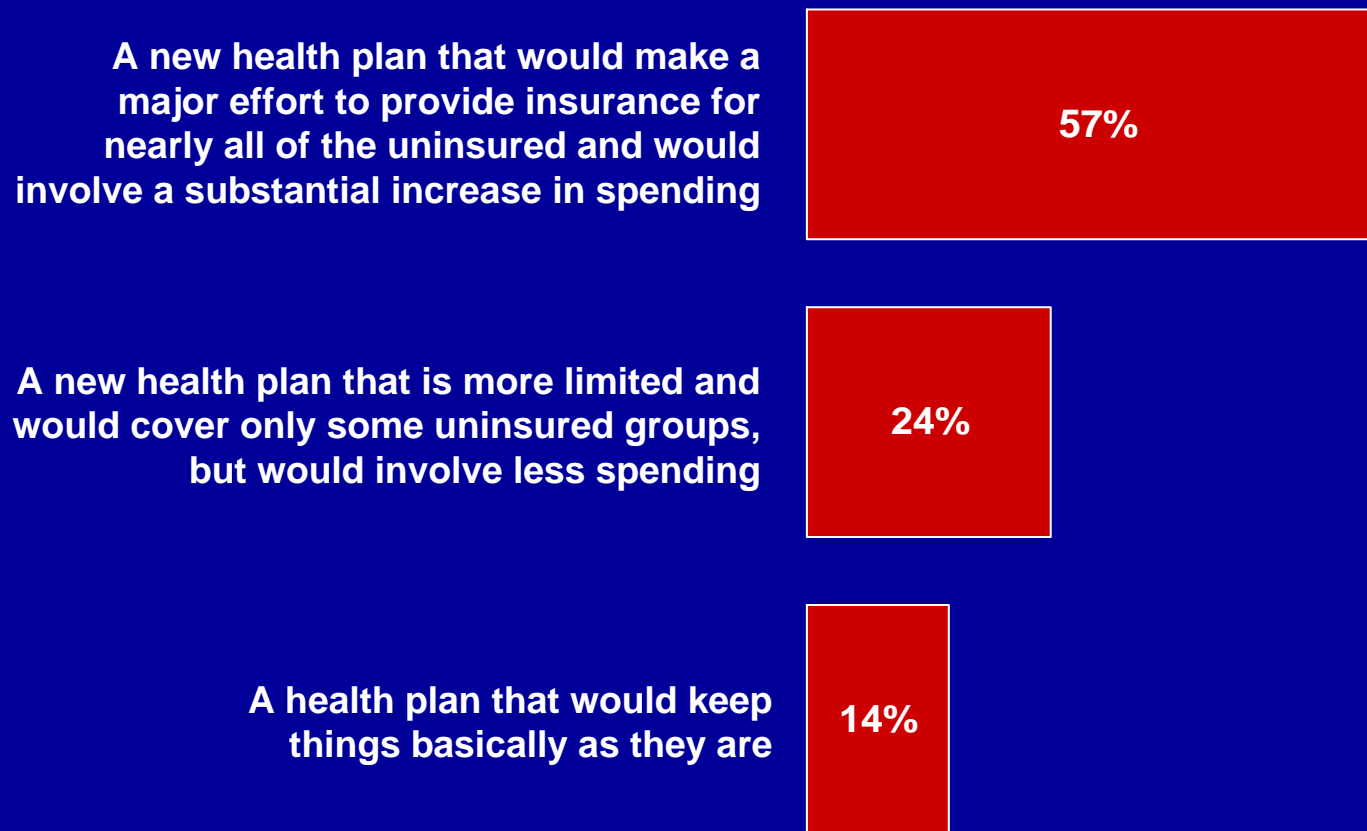
Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/refused" and "None of these" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 13

# Preferences for Health Care Reform Proposals

Thinking ahead to the presidential election in 2008, which ONE of the following three things would you like to see in a health care reform proposal from a candidate?



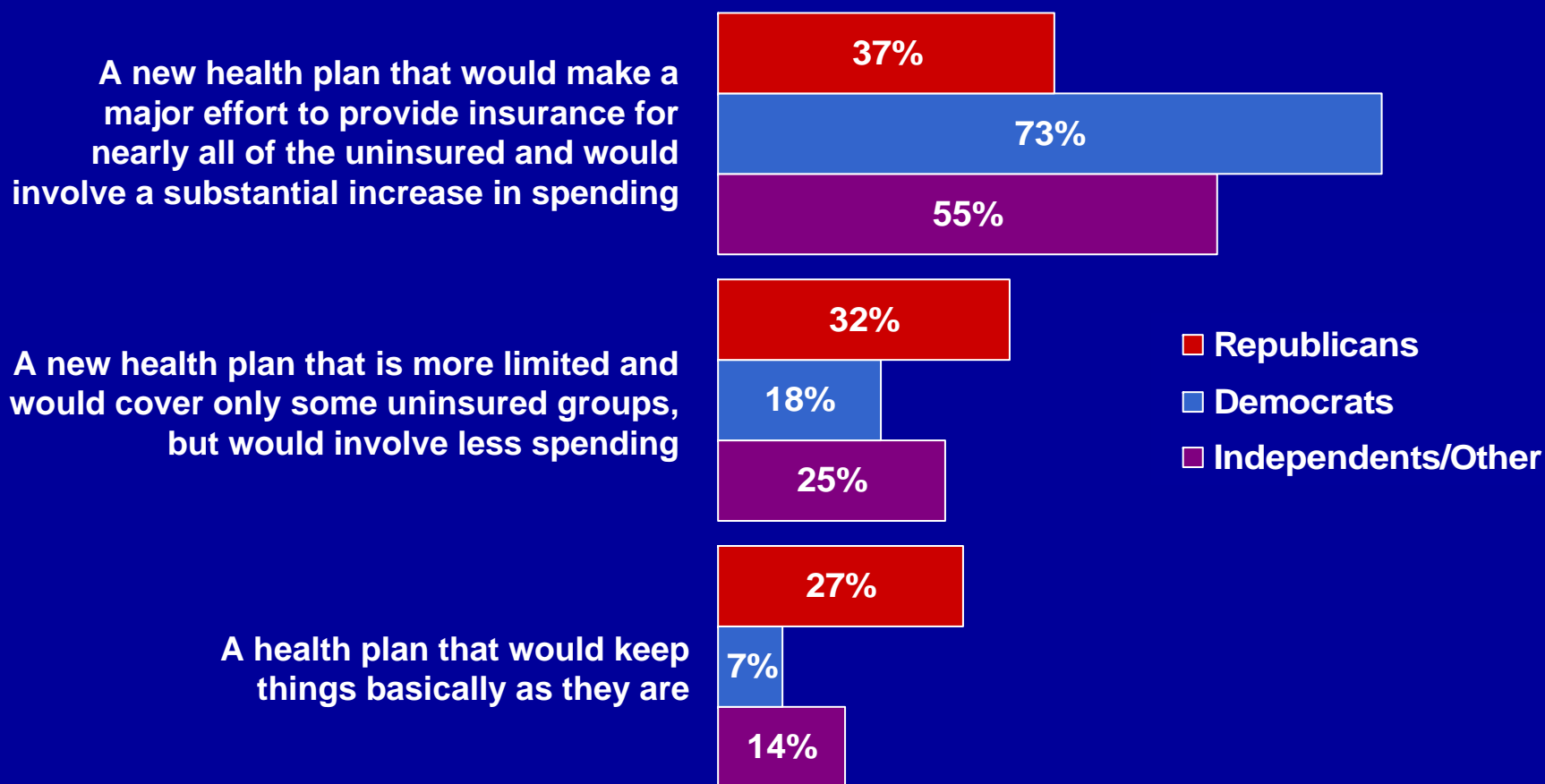
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 14

# Preferences for Health Care Reform Proposals

Thinking ahead to the presidential election in 2008, which ONE of the following three things would you like to see in a health care reform proposal from a candidate?



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

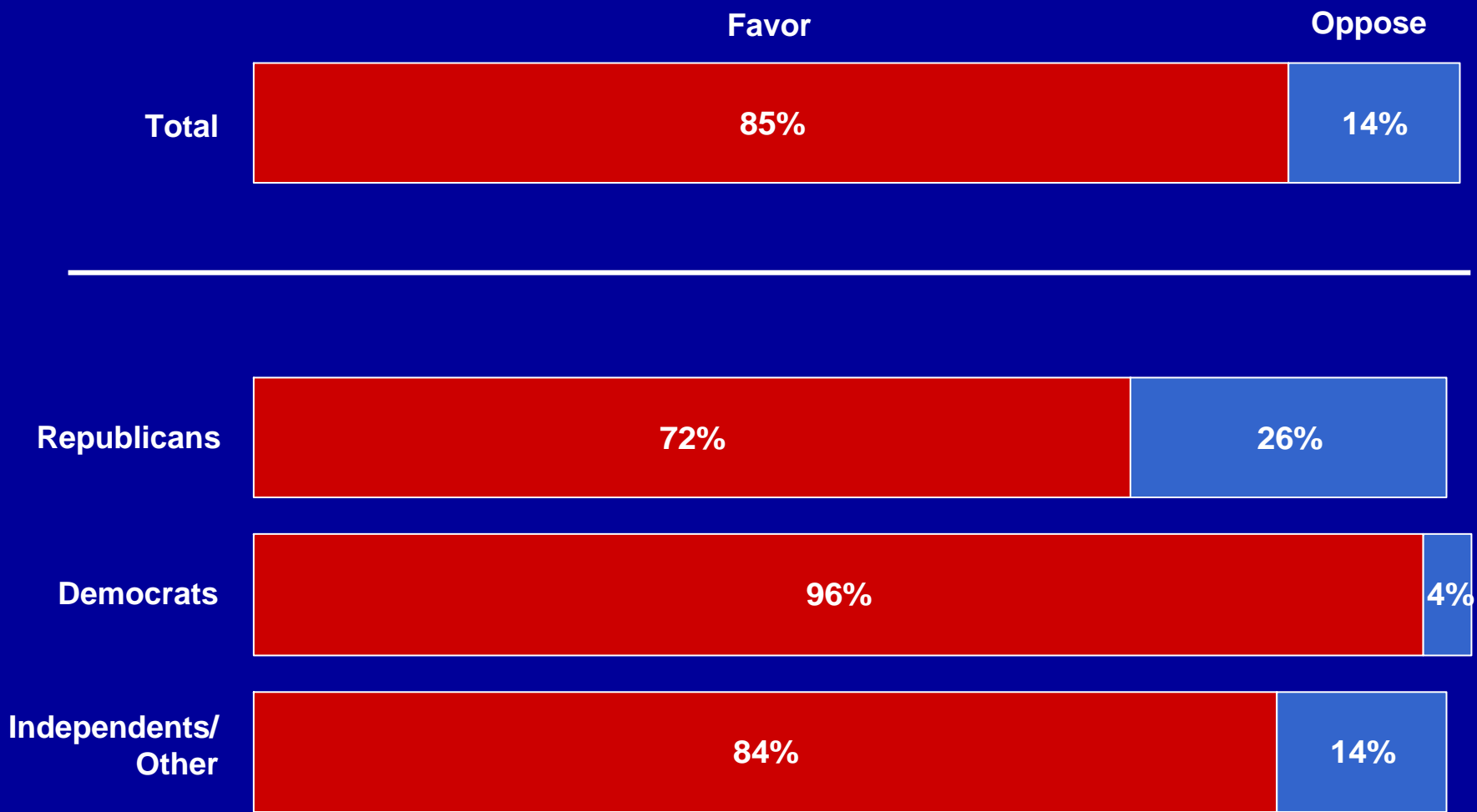
# Looking Ahead: Taking the Long View of the Health Policy Agenda

- The uninsured
- Health care costs
- Medicare

Chart 15

# Government Responsibility Towards Uninsured

Do you favor or oppose the federal government doing more to help provide health insurance for more Americans?



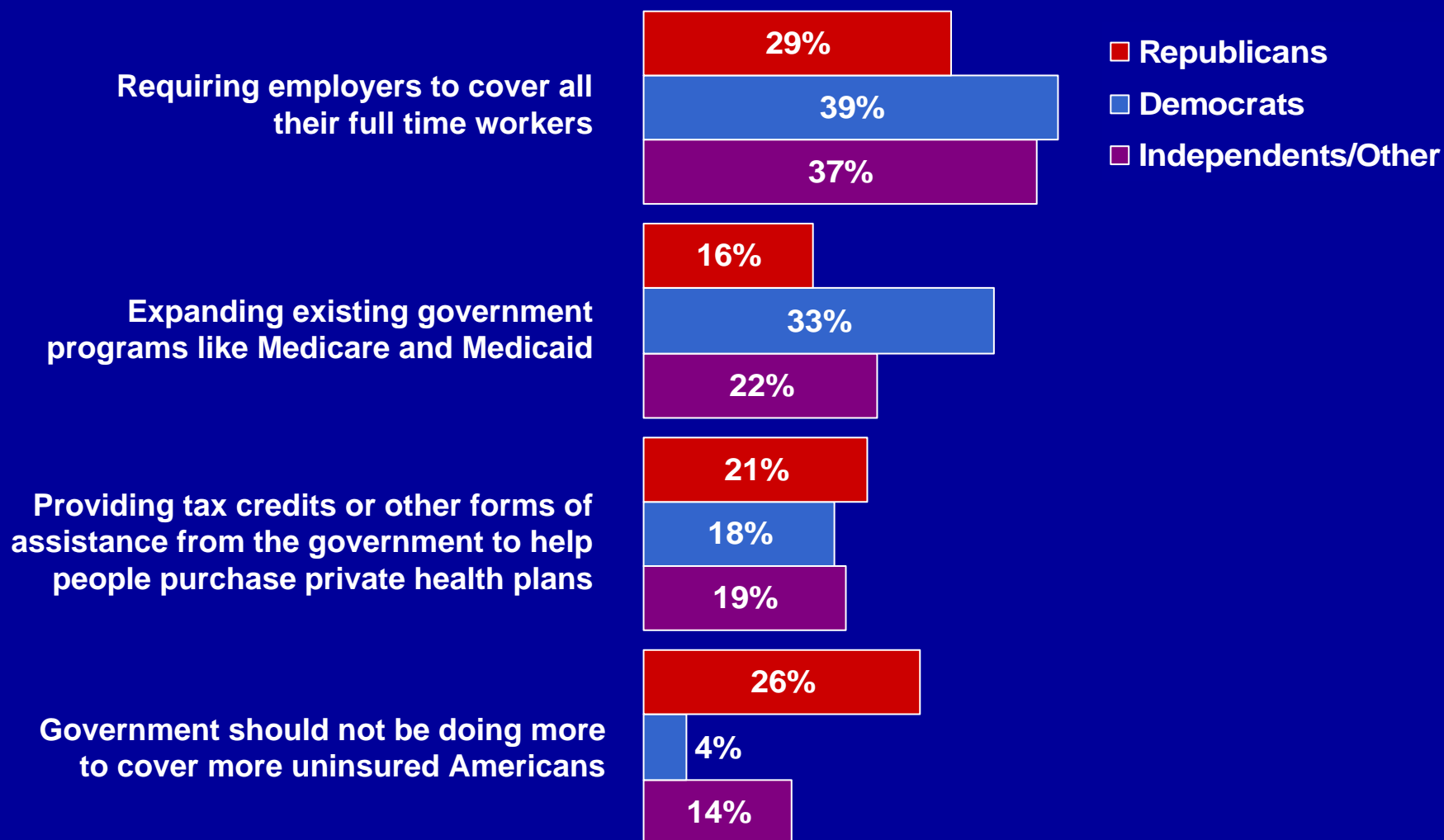
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 16

# How to Cover More Americans

Which would you prefer as a general approach to covering more uninsured Americans?



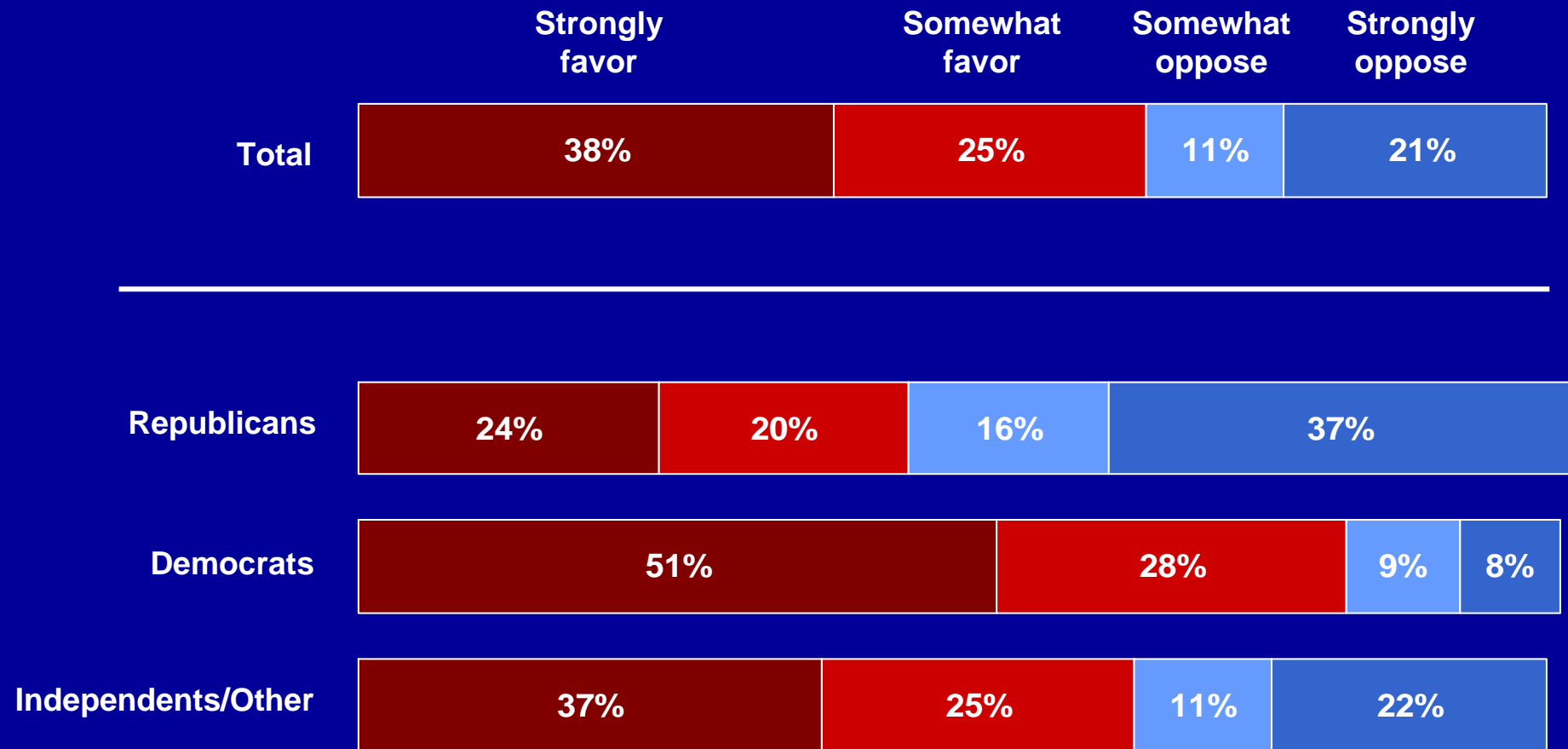
Note: "Don't know/refused", "All of these", and "None of these" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 17

# Reaction to Individual Coverage Mandate

To achieve universal health coverage, one proposal would require that everyone have health insurance, the way all drivers are required to have automobile insurance. People with higher incomes who do not have coverage would be required to buy insurance, and the government would help pay for insurance for those who can't afford it. Would you favor or oppose such a plan?



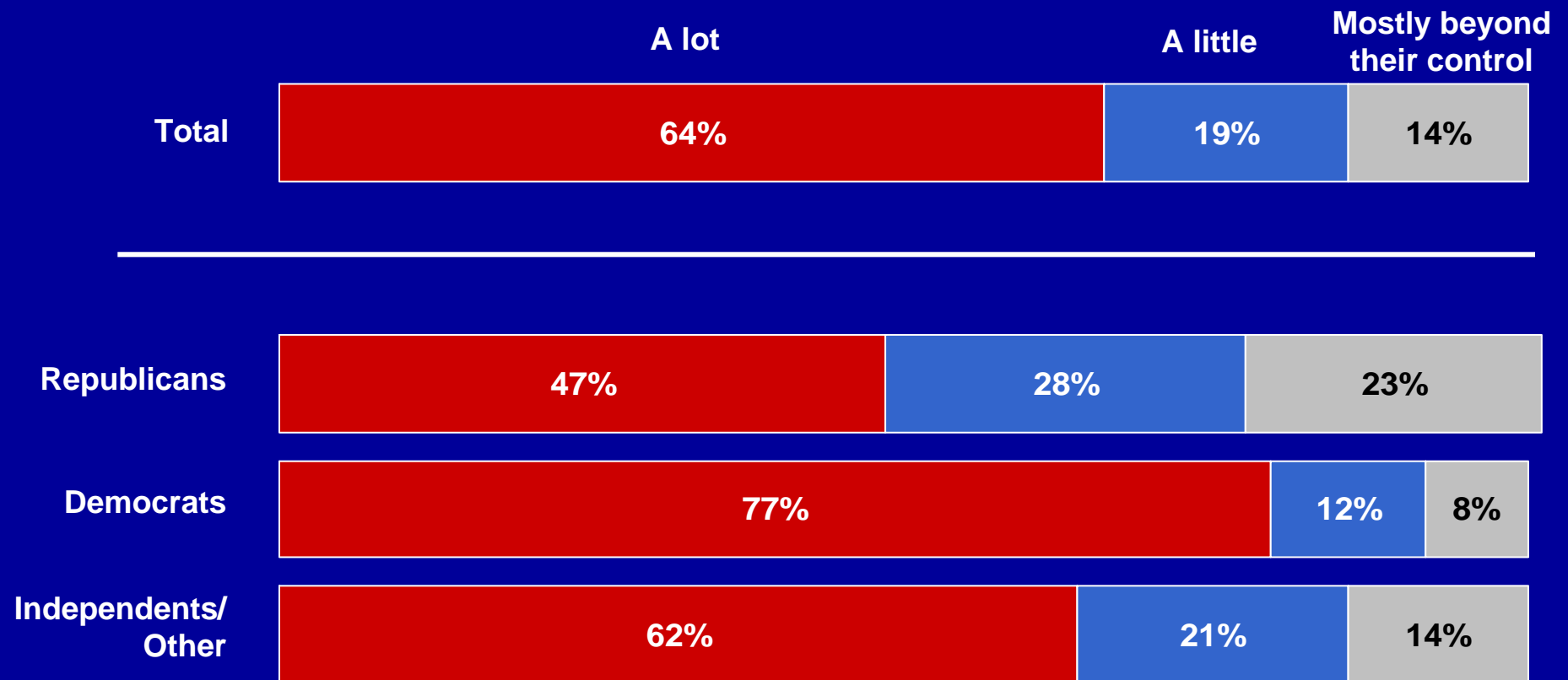
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 18

# Can Congress & the President Control Health Care Costs?

Do you think the cost of health care is something the president and Congress can do a lot about, do a little about, or is that mostly beyond their control?



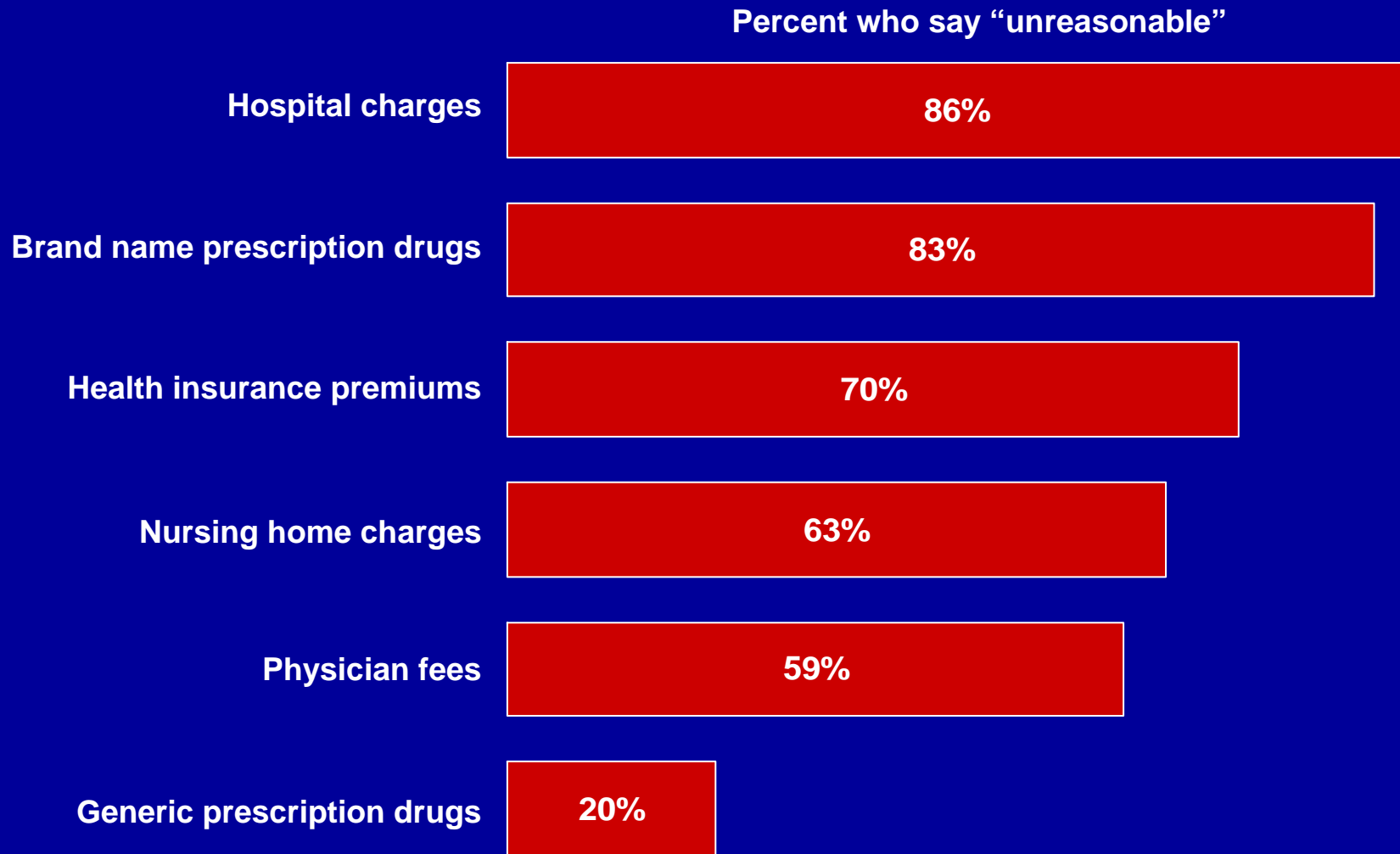
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 19

# Public Thinks Most Services Unreasonably Priced

Compared to other goods and services you purchase, how reasonable or unreasonable do you think the prices of the following items are?



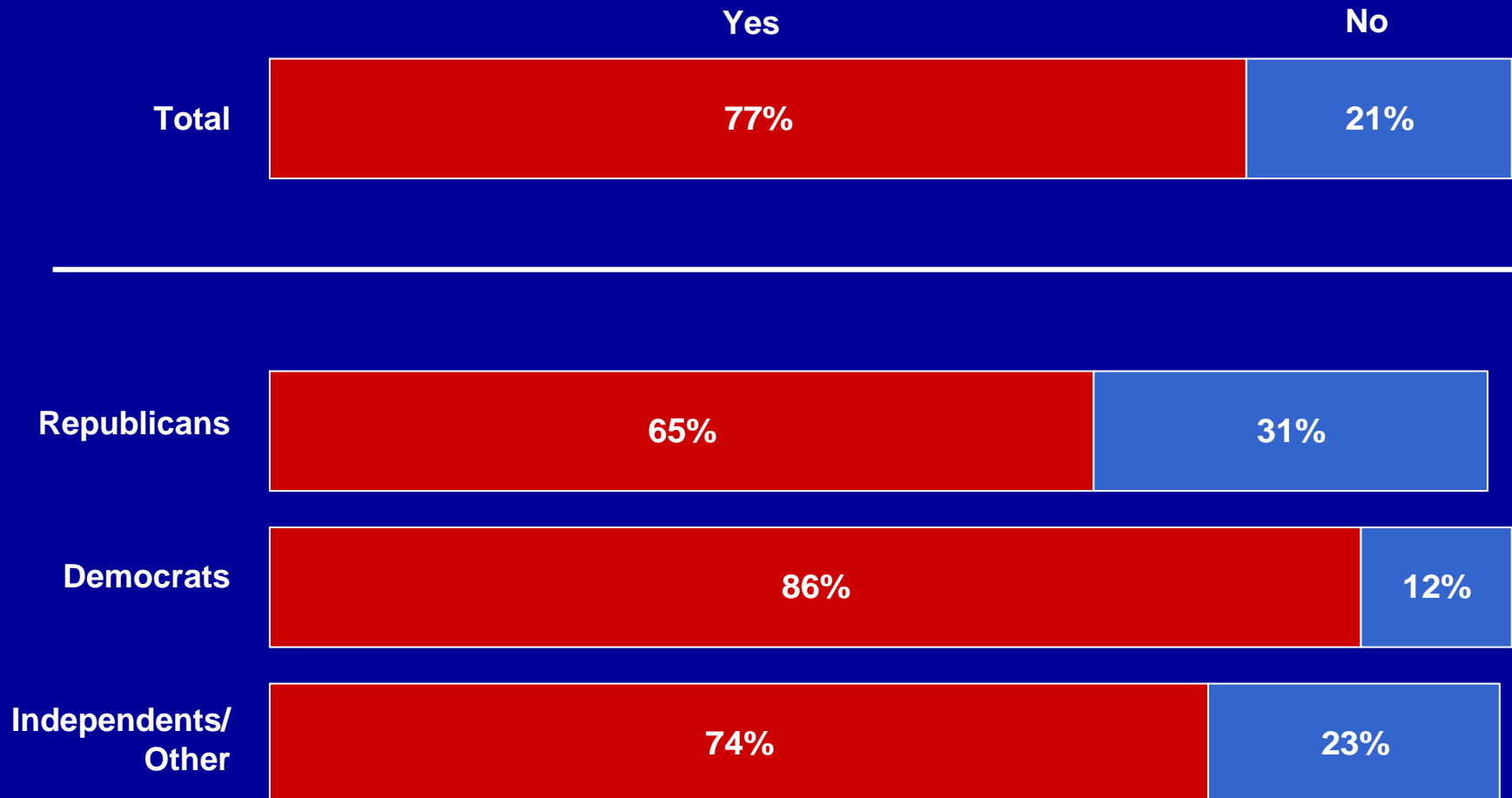
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 20

# Government Action on Health Costs

AMONG THE 97% WHO SAY ANY HEALTH-RELATED PRICES ARE UNREASONABLE:

Do you think Congress should try to do something about the items you think are unreasonably priced, or is that not something Congress should do?



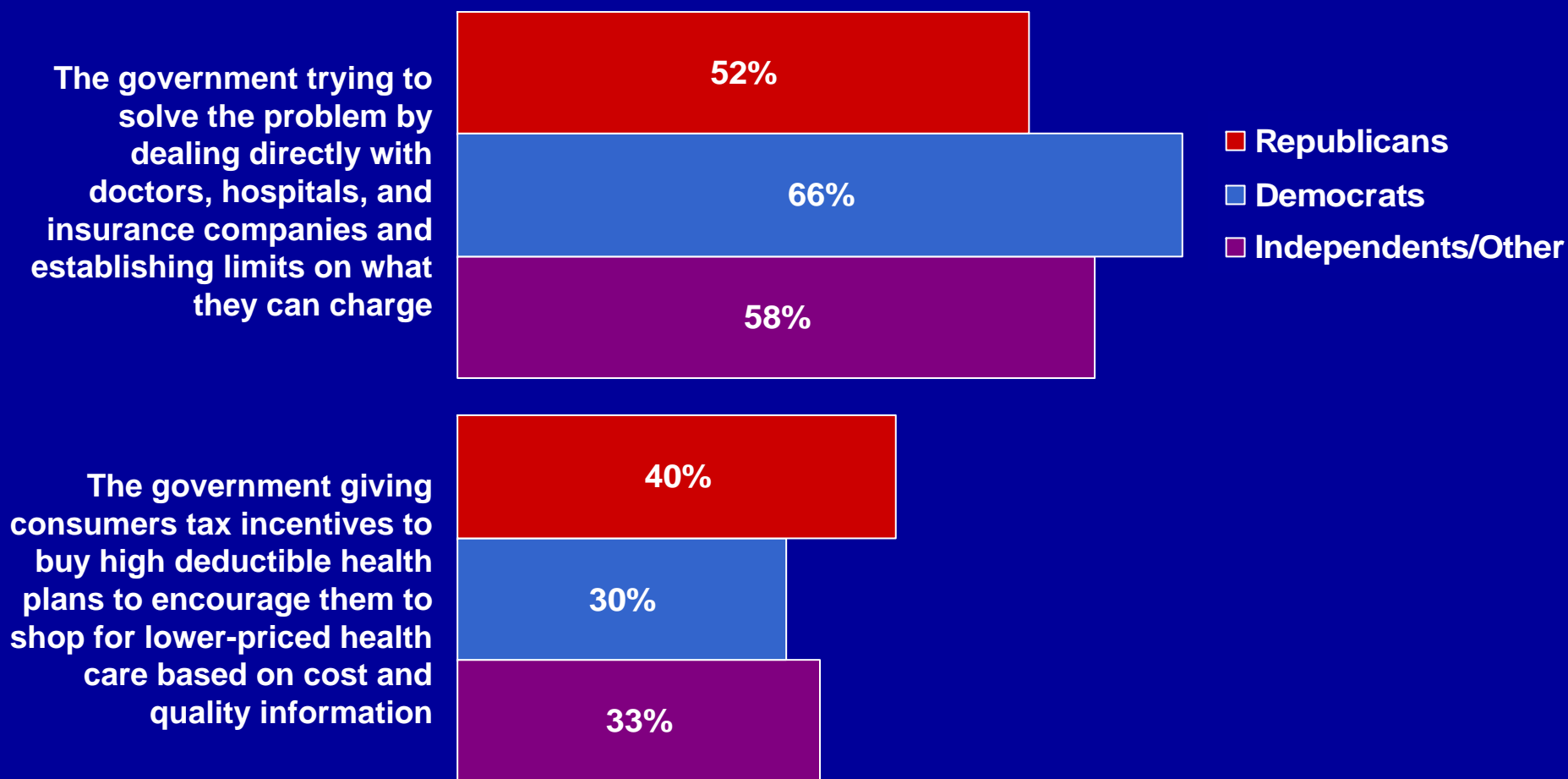
Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 21

# Options for Congress to Lower Health Care Costs

Which approach would you prefer Congress to follow to help lower the cost of health care?



Note: "Don't know/refused", "Both", and "Neither" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

# Proposals for Controlling Costs

Would you favor or oppose the following proposals?

One proposal would establish a new independent federal scientific body which would decide whether approved new medical technology and drugs should be covered by insurance, based on whether they are proven to be more effective than existing, less expensive treatments

Another proposal would require health plans to seek approval from a state commission before they could raise premiums. They would have to explain the reasons for raising premiums, including providing detailed financial information that would be publicly available to policyholders, employers, and state legislators

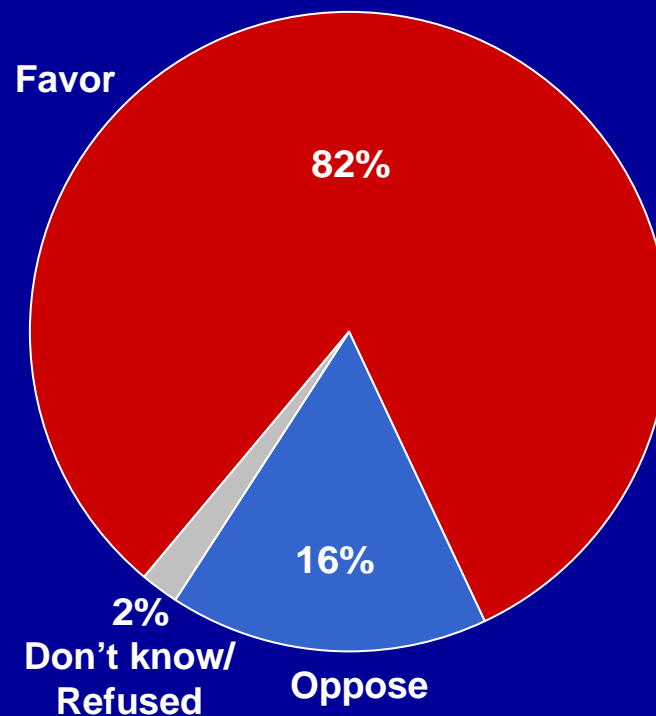
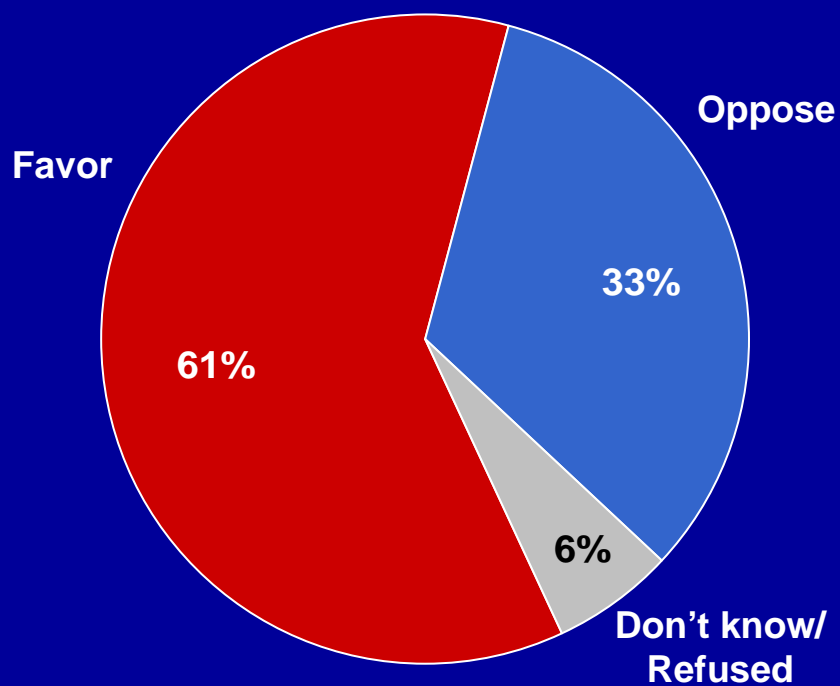
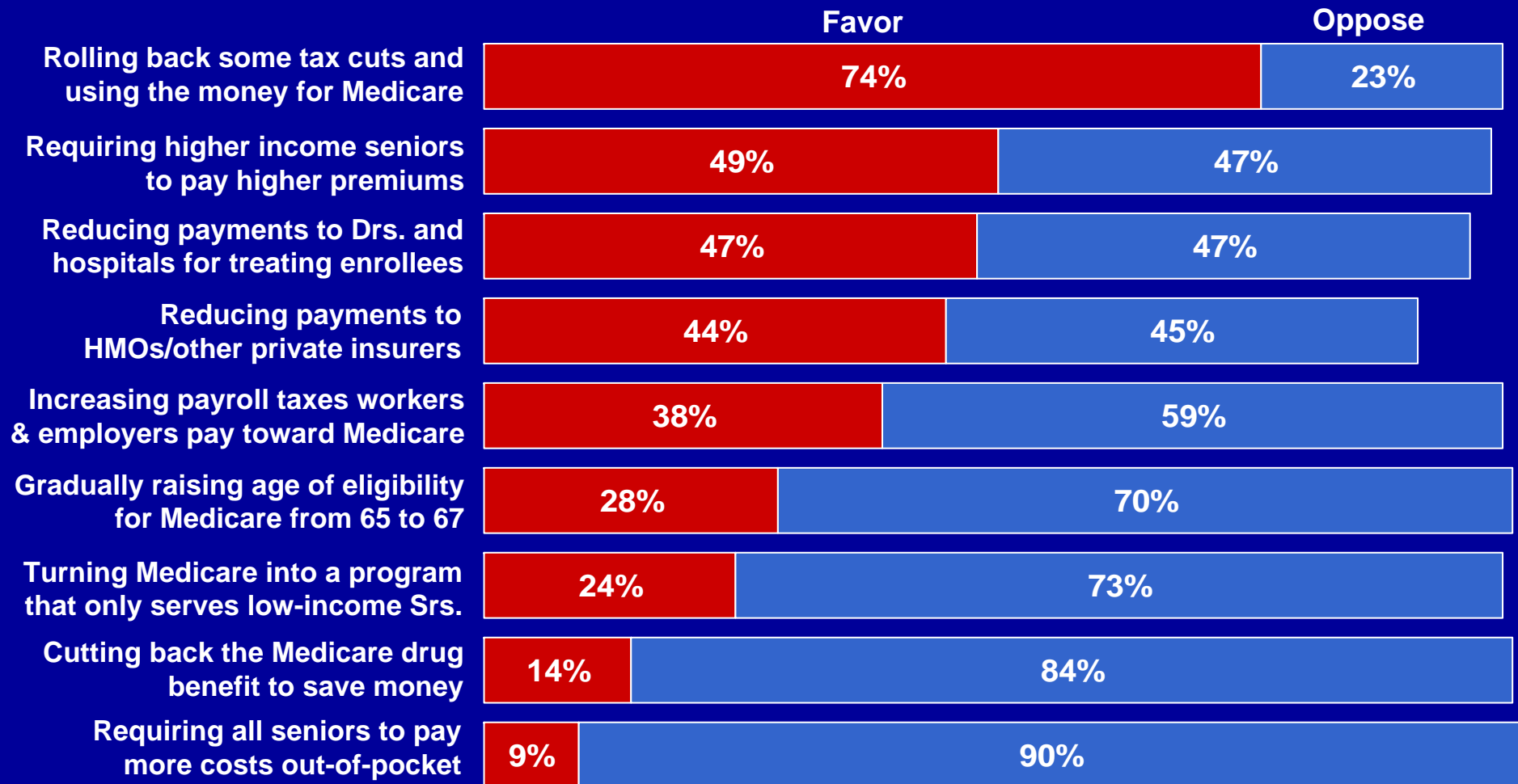


Chart 23

# Proposals to Keep Medicare Financially Stable

Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose the following proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future.



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

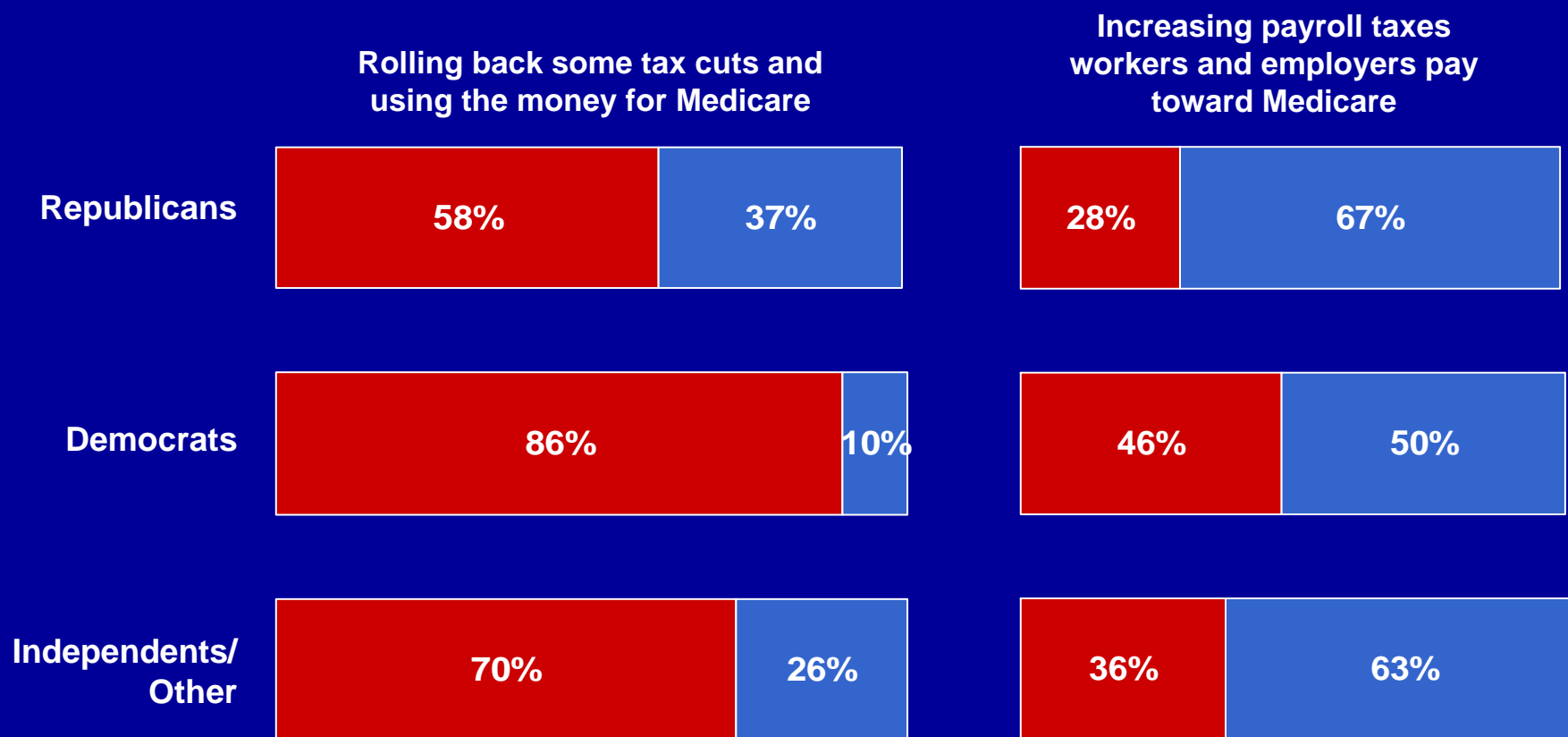
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 24

# Proposals to Keep Medicare Financially Stable

Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose the following proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future.

■ Favor    ■ Oppose



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

### Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign*, was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., and Claudia Deane, M.A. from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Fieldwork was done by telephone November 9 to 19, 2006 among a nationally representative sample of 1,867 respondents ages 18 and over -- including 1,363 respondents who reported voting in the midterm election -- by ICR/International Communications Research. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and over; a total of 718 respondents in this age group were interviewed. Overall results have been weighted to reflect the actual demographic distribution of the nation.

The margin of sampling error for results based on the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Margin of error for results based on respondents ages 18 – 64 or 65 + is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and all results are available separately at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).



**The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**  
2400 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Office:  
1330 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

**[www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)**

A more detailed version of this Chartpack (#7597) is available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

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*Harvard School of Public Health is dedicated to advancing the public's health through learning, discovery, and communication. More than 300 faculty members are engaged in teaching and training the 800-plus student body in a broad spectrum of disciplines crucial to the health and well being of individuals and populations around the world. Programs and projects range from the molecular biology of AIDS vaccines to the epidemiology of cancer; from risk analysis to violence prevention; from maternal and children's health to quality of care measurement; from health care management to international health and human rights.*